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Atty Dkt No. GP-303190 (GM0411PUS)

Listing of The Claims

1. (currently amended) A connecting rod comprising:

a connecting rod body having a crank arm bore formed in a first end and a pin bore formed in a second end; and

a tube connected to the body for carrying lubricant from the first end to the second end[[.]], the tube being external to the body between the first and second ends; and

a plurality of spray holes formed in the second end for spraying lubricant received from the tube onto a piston.

2. (original) The connecting rod of claim 1, wherein the connecting rod body has a first drilled passage formed in the first end and a second drilled passage formed in the second end, and said tube has opposing ends received in the first and second drilled passages, respectively.

3. (original) The connecting rod of claim 2, wherein the first passage intersects the crank arm bore, and the second passage intersects the pin bore.

Claim 4 is cancelled.

5. (currently amended) The connecting rod of claim [[4]] 1, wherein said plurality of spray holes comprises a top hole for spraying a piston dome and side holes for spraying a piston skirt.

6. (currently amended) The connecting rod of claim 2, further comprising first and second bushing members positioned in the pin bore forming a channel therebetween and each having a plurality of squirt grooves formed therein, wherein lubricant is received from the second drilled passage into said channel and distributed to a piston dome and a piston skirt/bore interface through said plurality of squirt grooves.

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7. (original) The connecting rod of claim 1, wherein the tube is nylon.

8. (currently amended) ~~The connecting rod of claim 1~~ A connecting rod comprising:

a connecting rod body having a crank arm bore formed in a first end and a pin bore formed in a second end; and

a tube connected to the body for carrying lubricant from the first end to the second end;

wherein the tube is attached to the body by tack-welded straps.

9. (original) The connecting rod of claim 2, wherein said first and second drilled passages are angled such that they are drilled without removing a rod cap.

10. (original) The connecting rod of claim 1, wherein the tube is approximately 3 mm in diameter.

11. (currently amended) The connecting rod of claim 1, further comprising an annulus passage formed in the second end around the pin bore intersecting the second drilled passage, and ~~at least one~~ a plurality of spray holes formed through the second end intersecting the annulus passage for spraying lubricant received from the tube onto a piston.

12. (currently amended) A connecting rod comprising:

a connecting rod body having a crank arm bore formed in a first end and a pin bore formed in a second end;

a tube connected to the body for carrying lubricant from the first end to the second end, the tube being external to the body between the first and second ends; and

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wherein the connecting rod body has a first drilled passage formed in the first end and a second drilled passage formed in the second end, and said tube has opposing ends inserted into the first and second drilled passages, respectively; and

a plurality of spray holes formed in the second end for spraying lubricant received from the tube onto a piston.

13. (original) The connecting rod of claim 12, wherein the first passage intersects the crank arm bore, and the second passage intersects the pin bore.

Claim 14 is cancelled.

15. (currently amended) The connecting rod of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 12, wherein said plurality of spray holes comprises a top hole for spraying a piston dome and side holes for spraying a piston skirt.

16. (currently amended) The connecting rod of claim 12, further comprising first and second bushing members positioned in the pin bore forming a channel therebetween and each having a plurality of squirt grooves formed therein, wherein lubricant is received from the second drilled passage into said channel and distributed to a piston dome and a piston skirt/bore interface through said plurality of squirt grooves.

17. (original) The connecting rod of claim 12, wherein the tube is nylon.

18. (currently amended) ~~The connecting rod of claim 12;~~ A connecting rod comprising:

a connecting rod body having a crank arm bore formed in a first end and a pin bore formed in a second end;

a tube connected to the body for carrying lubricant from the first end to the second end;

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wherein the connecting rod body has a first drilled passage formed in the first end and a second drilled passage formed in the second end, and said tube has opposing ends inserted into the first and second drilled passages, respectively;

wherein the tube is attached to the body by tack-welded straps.

19. (original) The connecting rod of claim 12, wherein said first and second drilled passages are angled such that they are drilled without removing a rod cap.

20. (currently amended) A connecting rod comprising:

a connecting rod body having a crank arm bore formed in a first end and a pin bore formed in a second end;

a tube connected to the body for carrying lubricant from the first end to the second end, the tube being external to the body between the first and second ends;

said connecting rod body having a first drilled passage formed in the first end and a second drilled passage formed in the second end, and said tube having opposing ends inserted into the first and second drilled passages, respectively; and

a plurality of spray holes formed in the second end for spraying lubricant received from the tube onto a piston.

21. (currently amended) A method of lubricating a piston comprising:

connecting a tube to a connecting rod body for carrying lubricant from a crank arm bore end of the body to a pin bore end of the body, the tube being external to the body between the crank arm bore end and the pin bore end; and

distributing lubricant received from the tube through spray holes formed in the pin bore end of the body for spraying lubricant onto the piston.

22. (new) The connecting rod of claim 3, wherein the crank arm bore is configured to define a crescent-shaped annulus between the connecting rod body and an upper

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rod bearing disposed in the crank arm bore, the crescent-shaped annulus being in fluid communication with the first drilled passage such that lubricant is supplied to the first end through the crescent-shaped annulus.

23. (new) The connecting rod of claim 22, wherein the upper rod bearing defines at least one opening displaced from a vertical centerline of the connecting rod body, said at least one opening being in fluid communication with the crescent-shaped annulus for distributing lubricant to the first end.